

Remarks/Arguments:

The pending claims are 13-20. Claims 18-20 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 13, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sagstetter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,092,462. The preamble of claim 13 has been amended, in part, to recite that the lid aperture is "configured to unwind a first needle portion" and that when the adapter is engaged in the lid aperture, the lid is modified from being configured "to unwind the first needle portion" to being configured "to unwind the second needle portion." Paragraph (a) of claim 13 has also been amended, in part, to provide antecedent basis for "the adapter aperture" in paragraph (b). Paragraphs (b) and (c) have also been amended to be consistent with the preamble and paragraph (a).

Sagstetter's Fig. 13 does not disclose that its module 230 is usable to modify a lid aperture 252 in such a way that a needle system having a first configuration can be engaged with the lid aperture without using the module and that a needle system having a second configuration can be engaged with the module 230 when the module 230 is inserted into the lid aperture 252. That is, there is no teaching in connection with Fig. 13 of Sagstetter that Sagstetter's lid aperture 252 can unwind a first needle portion from a first needle holder of a needle system having a first configuration. Consequently, Sagstetter's adapter 230 does not have an adapter aperture that can "modify[] the lid from being configured to unwind the first needle portion from the first needle holder of the needle system having the first configuration to being configured to unwind the second needle portion from the second needle holder of the needle system having the second configuration." Since Sagstetter does not disclose the above features, Sagstetter also does not disclose the steps recited in paragraphs (b) and (c) which recite, in part, "engaging the second needle portion" and "unwinding the second needle portion."

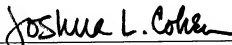
Accordingly, amended claim 13, along with dependent claims 16 and 17 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sagstetter.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sagstetter in view of Shaw (U.S. Patent No. 6,474,472). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Shaw does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in amended claim 13. It also does not teach the features of amended claim 13 that are

missing in Sagstetter. Accordingly, amended claim 13, along with dependent claims 14 and 15 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sagstetter in view of Shaw.

For all of the above reasons, claims 13-17 are in condition for allowance and an early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 18, 2009

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